**Project 4: Cultural Landscapes**

**Project theme:**

Adaptation and subsistence among North American colonists in the 17th and 18th Centuries

**What you do:**

Pick a topic that explores how early colonists ADAPTED TO their new home and made lives for themselves.

Compare/contrast this to a modern example, preferably something you already know about.

**Examples of topics from the early colonial history of (Canadian) North America**

1. The habitation at Port Royal (e.g. the Order of Good Cheer) 1605-1613
2. Travel and trade among the *coureurs de bois* 1608-1681
3. The Company of 100 Associates 1627-1663 (attempt to colonize New France)
4. The Jesuit missions in Huronia 1625-1650 (spread of European religion among Native people)
5. The growth of Acadia 1632-1755 (e.g. draining the marshlands)
6. The seigneurial system in New France 1663-1759 (e.g. life for *habitants* and *seigneurs*)
7. Life in the towns of New France 1660s-1750s (e.g. Québec, Tadoussac, Montréal, Trois Rivières)
8. The first century of the HBC 1660-1774 (life on Hudson’s Bay for the British Fur Traders)
9. Building Halifax 1749-1751 (British response to the French repossession of Louisbourg)
10. Foreign Protestants arrive in Nova Scotia 1751-52 (e.g. the start of Lunenberg

You can pick another topic, but it has to relate to European colonization of (Canadian) North America in the 17th and 18th century. We have talked about several of these in class, and some of you chose to do your Social Studies Fair projects on them, so you already have solid facts.

**Modern examples of adaptation and subsistence**

Pick something modern that you can compare and/or contrast with the historical example, something from a similar “sector”. Here are some modern topics you might line up with the historical ones above. Of course, you can choose your own.

1. Social clubs, dinner theatre, societies, orders, legion halls, social organizations
2. GPS mapping, mineral exploration, working on road crews, forestry surveying
3. New business ventures, resort development, the proposed KinderMorgan pipeline
4. Canada/USA trying to “spread democracy” in the Middle East, modern development work in poor countries
5. Making big changes or modifications to landscapes: clearcut logging, oil-sands development, open-pit mines, fish farms on the BC coast…
6. Modern farming and agricultures, life in rural towns or remote settlements
7. What life in today’s big cities lookes like, what do cities have that rural areas don’t
8. Business patterns in big companies like Walmart, Exxon Mobil, Toyota, Apple, Canfor…
9. New housing development, constructing buildings and neighbourhoods
10. Building a brand-new town, colonisation of Mars (or the Moon)

**What do I compare/contrast?**

If you have already done a Social Studies Fair project that works well with this one, focus your attention on the modern example.

If you are starting from scratch, focus your attention on the colonial topic, and use a modern example that you already know a bunch about.

Use the less-studied section as a reflective element, final thought, or foreword. Use what you know a lot about to go into a lot of detail.

**How should you explore your topic? What kinds of questions might you ask?**

Start with the basics: who/what/where/when/why/how… but to really use your critical thinking skills, use these ideas:

**Perspectives**: Can you put yourself in the shoes of the people who lived at the time? What were their concerns? their abilities? their values? their limitations? What other perspectives or views can you take on the topic? How were the First Nations affected? Are there “two sides” (or more) to your topic?

**Cause and consequence**: why did people need to adapt to a new envirionment? How did they adapt? What were the effects on the landscape? What were the effects on the people?

**Judgement**: How should history judge the people you are studying? What do you think of the motives that guided their lives and work?

**Significance**: what makes your topic important? How did the people involved or the ways they adapted to the environment, contribute to Canadian history?

**Patterns and change**: what evidence was left beind most by the people you looked at? How did their lives change during this period? Are there “layers of history” left behind in the same area you are looking at? Before or after? Whose layers?

**Format**

I recommend the “Virtual Museum” format, as it is easy to build in PowerPoint, and it’s much more interesting than a slide show. You have all done a formal oral report (at the Socials Fair), so you don’t have to get up in front of the class (unless you want to!). Really, though, the format is up to you. \*\*Because you worked so hard on in-text citation and works cited for the socials fair, I will be satisfied with a list of links or sources for INFORMATIONAL SOURCES ONLY\*\* Be aware that penalties for plagiarism are severe, and you must do your own thinking—cutting and pasting is NEVER ok.

**Assessment**

We will use the Social Science Rubric to mark this project. It is worth 7% of your final mark.